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Control: 12233
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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 160 AUGUST 20, 4 PM

SENT PRIORITY BONN 144, REPEATED INFORMATION DEPARTMENT 160.

1. ARMY CONVOY COMPRISING FOUR OPEN VEHICLES ONE CLOSED VAN DEPARTED BERLIN FOR HALMSTEDT 0730 AUGUST 19. SOVIET CHECKPOINT GUARD NOWAWES INSISTED INSPECTING CLOSED VAN SO CONVOY RETURNED BERLIN. DEPARTED AGAIN 10:30 WITHOUT CLOSED VAN CLEARED ROUTINELY NOWAWES AND MARIENBORN. GENERAL HAMLETT PROTESTED TO GENERAL ZAKHAROV REGARDING SOVIET INSISTENCE ON RIGHT OF INSPECTION.

2. SOVIET GUARD NOWAWES ALSO INSISTED INSPECTING STATE DEPT CLOSED CANVAS TOPPED TRUCK ENROUTE TO HELMSTEDT YESTERDAY. MILITARY POLICE DRIVERS SAID THAT THEY PERMITTED SOVIET GUARD "TO PEEK INTO TRUCK" THROUGH REAR CANVAS COVER.

SAME DRIVERS PICKED UP TWO NEW STATE DEPT TRUCKS AT HELMSTEDT FOR DELIVERY MISSION BERLIN. SOVIET GUARD MARIENBORN CLEARED THESE TRUCKS WITHOUT INSPECTION. NOWAWES GUARD INSISTED ON LOOKING INTO CLOSED PANEL TRUCK. DRIVER OPENED REAR PANEL DOOR AND ALLOWED GUARD TO LOOK INTO TRUCK. DRIVER OPENED DOOR IN VIOLATION SPECIFIC ORDERS FROM OFFICER ISSUING DOCUMENTATION AT HELMSTEDT AND IS BEING DISCIPLINED.

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